



LODDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL Farthing Green House Loddon Norwich Norfolk Nor 23W
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R. A. Gorham *Clerk of the Council*

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR 1968

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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LODDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for 1968.

The Rural District of Loddon covers 60,406 acres and has an estimated mid-year population of 13,430, an increase over 1967 of 300 persons.

I am happy to be able to report that no great medical catastrophies or epidemics occurred during the year under review. Infectious disease in children appears to be well under control and with the advent of an effective measles vaccine we can hope that the incidence of this will also rapidly fall. Throat infections caused by haemolytic streptococci resulted in some loss of schooling but the previous complications we used to see such as rheumatic fever and nephritis seem to have been almost completely eliminated by the effective treatment with modern antibiotics. Bowel infections with salmonella organisms still cause outbreaks of diarrhoea from time to time and emphasise the constant need for care in food preparation, cooking and handling. The need for scrupulous cleanliness in food handlers is still all too frequently neglected.

The average age at death gets ever higher in this part of Norfolk which we are lucky enough to live. Perhaps the stresses and strains are not so great here as in other parts; but there is still no cause for complacency. Concerning infectious diseases, we may justifiably boast that we are largely operating a National Health Service; but for many other avoidable complaints we are still all too happy to squander the great bulk of our financial resources devoted to medicine as a whole on a National Sickness Service, the hospitals devouring the vast majority available. The fault lies not with the personnel dealing with disease but to the lack of financial resources available to prove the root causes of those diseases which we believe are largely avoidable, if not completely, at least until a later age.

Those of us in Public Health Service repeatedly plug this theme and there is more than enough evidence to show that we are right. Yet scorning youth sheeplike follows the bad examples of middle age and the not-so-young gradually drift into over-eating and inactivity. The middle age and elderly avoid what could be an uncomfortable discipline by burying their heads in the sand or by the pretence of a bold fatalism. Only a few grasp the nettle firmly in the hope of an active old age if not a prolonged one and the avoidance of being an unnecessary burden on others. Perhaps many more would take a more sensible course through life if they knew more about the maintenance of good health. Health education at a local level is indispensable for this purpose and there is still much to be done by small but enthusiastic groups disseminating information about preventive measures to all who are willing to listen and learn. Loddon has set an excellent example in this field and is fortunate indeed in having

such an active and enthusiastic Health Education sub-committee.

Environmental health services have been well maintained by an efficient health staff. Although some agricultural hardship was caused by the rupture of the main water supply from Norwich, this was minimised by rapid action on the part of your own water engineering staff. This has prompted the installation of a more rapid warning system for such catastrophies in the future.

May I this year, as in 1967, once more draw your attention to the problem of illegitimate births. I do this because I feel that as the drip of water gradually impresses the stone so my little bit of propaganda for a subject which is still very much a taboo may gradually awaken our consciences to what I believe is largely a public responsibility. I believe the tragedy of illegitimate birth is one which should be completely avoided in this day and age and whatever the intimate causes of its occurrence its prevention by medical means is still being delayed by ignorance and lack of public demand for suitable preventive services. Sex eduction is still largely avoided in schools, one headmaster even going so far as to believe he would precipitate sex orgies if he allowed the subject in his co-educational school! If the animal is so near the surface in the children of our advanced, civilised society, then all the more reason for utilising every facility possible to prevent undesirable consequences and the mental anguish which is suffered by all concerned.

I am grateful to the Health Committee and their Chairman for their never failing support and also to members of the Health staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R. D. Harland

Local Health Office,
Aspland Road,
Norwich,
NOR 19S.

LODDON RURAL DISTRICT - 1968

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	60,406
Estimated Resident Population	13,430
Rateable Value	£ 322,963
Sum produced by a Penny Rate	£ 1,310

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	86	96	182
Illegitimate	3	5	8
Totals	89	101	190

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population = 14.1

Table 3. SPILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births = 31.0

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	89	99	188
Illegitimate	3	5	8

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	2	2

Infant Mortality Rates

Total = 10.5 (per 1,000 live births)
 Legitimate = 11.0 (per 1,000 legitimate births)
 Illegitimate = 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 10.5

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 5.3

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 36.0

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 3 Females - 5 Total = 8 = 4% of total live births.

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) = NIL

Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 total births) = 0.0

Table 8. DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
79	72	151

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population = 11.2

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Congenital heart disease	-	1	1
Bronchiolitis and atelectasis	-	1	1

Table 10. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	-	2	2
4 weeks and under 1 year	-	-	-
1 " " 5	-	-	-
5 " " 15	-	-	-
15 " " 25	-	1	1
25 " " 35	-	2	2
35 " " 45	2	-	2
45 " " 55	6	4	10
55 " " 65	11	5	16
65 " " 75	19	16	35
75 and over	41	42	83
Totals	79	72	151

Table 11. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - lung, bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant Neoplasm - breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm - uterus	-	2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	8	4	12
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	-	1
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	1	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	20	18	38
Other forms of heart Disease	5	2	7
Cerebrovascular Disease	11	10	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	4	7
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	3	7
Asthma	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	2	3
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	3	4
All Other Accidents	3	2	5
All Other External Causes	-	1	1
Totals	79	72	151

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR 1967 AND 1968

	1967	1968
<u>Live Births per 1,000 pop.</u>	(193)	(190)
Loddon R.D.	14.7	14.1
Area 5	16.3	16.1
England and Wales (provisional)	17.2	16.9
<u>Still Births per 1,000 total births</u>	(2)	(6)
Loddon R.D.	10.2	31.0
Area 5	9.4	9.6
England and Wales (provisional)	14.8	14.0
<u>Crude Deaths per 1,000 pop.</u>	(147)	(151)
Loddon R.D.	11.2	11.2
Area 5	12.5	13.3
England and Wales (provisional)	11.2	11.9
<u>Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births</u>	(1)	(2)
Loddon R.D.	5.2	11.0
Area 5	14.6	13.0
England and Wales (provisional)	18.3	18.0.

- NOTE : 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Loddon R.D.
2. Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s, and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Loddon R.D.

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Number of deaths	23	19	25	34	27
Percentage of total deaths	18.0	13.2	22.1	23.1	17.9

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Loddon R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1968	79	16	6	72	11	1
1967	77	18	7	70	16	-
1966	53	12	3	55	13	1
1965	70	12	4	74	7	1
1964	66	12	3	60	11	-
Totals	350	70	23	331	58	3

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Loddon R.D.
(According to Age Groups)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	-	2
Measles	6	75	88	4	6	179
Whooping Cough	2	4	1	-	2	9
Pneumonia (to 31st Aug.)	-	1	-	-	8	9
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	2	3
Dysentery	-	-	6	-	-	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	1	1	3
Totals	8	80	99	5	20	212

Table 16. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES During last five years -
Loddon R.D.

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Scarlet Fever	12	8	10	-	2
Measles	79	101	70	114	179
Whooping Cough	1	75	1	3	9
Pneumonia	10	6	9	4	9
Infective Jaundice	1	2	-	-	3
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-	-
Dysentery (Sonne)	1	-	4	-	6
Food Poisoning	4	1	2	2	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	-	4	2	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	2	3	-
Totals	113	195	102	128	212

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age)
during the year, resident in the District and
Area 5, is shown in the following table.

	Loddon R.D.	Area 5
Number of live births registered	190	1234
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	105	615
Percentage vaccinated	55	50

Table 18. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given during the year in respect of Area 5.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS		
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total
409	540	52	1,001	509	722	1,231

Table 19. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The following is the number of primary immunisations and boosters given in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY		BOOSTERS	
0 - 3 years	4 - 14 years	0 - 3 years	4 - 14 years
962	63	179	603

Table 20. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

The following is the number of whooping cough immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Under 5
402	531	15	948	594

Table 21. IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

The following is the number of tetanus immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS	
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Total	Age 1-4	Age 5-14
411	547	184	1,142	516	752

Table 22. B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

This is given at the age of 13 years to all school children who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. Number of skin tests and subsequent B.C.G. vaccinations in Area 5 last year is recorded.

Number Skin Tested	Number Positive	Number B.C.G. Vaccinated
806	41	725

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1968.

Farthing Green House,
Loddon,
Norwich, Nor.23W.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Loddon Rural District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report
for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

H O U S I N G.

(a) New Dwellings.

The number of new dwellings constructed in the
district during the year was as follows :-

<u>Type.</u>	<u>Council.</u>	<u>Private.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Bungalows.	3	71	74
Houses.	0	66	66
	<u>3</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>140</u>

This is an increase of 26 on the 1967 figure.
Since the war 1706 new dwellings have been constructed, i.e.
more than a third of the present housing stock.

There is a current tendency to build more houses,
particularly chalets than has been the case in previous years
when the number of bungalows built has been over 75% of the total.

(b) Old Dwellings.

Modernising properties, with the aid of Housing
Act grants continues, and it is hoped that the number will
increase when the new grant schemes are implemented. However,
in 1968 progress was fairly satisfactory, the number completed
going up by 20%, although the number of applications was down 20%.

Applications received and approved were :-

	<u>Discretionary.</u>	<u>Standard.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Owner/Occupier Dwellings.	3	37	40
Tenanted Dwellings.	9	15	24
Total	<u>12</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>64</u>

The number of completions was :-

	<u>Discretionary.</u>	<u>Standard.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Owner/Occupier Dwellings.	9	26	35
Tenanted Dwellings.	<u>5</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>51</u>
Total	<u>14</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>86</u>

Old Dwellings continued

Action Taken in Respect of Old Property.

Visits and inspections	259.
Demolition Orders, etc.	15.
Houses Repaired	31.
Houses demolished	17.

Current Position.

Number of Houses without Piped Water ...	174
Number of Houses without W.C's	613
Number of Houses without Baths	715.

(c) Overcrowding.

No case was reported or investigated during the year.

(d) Verminous and other Infested Property.

Four cases were reported, investigated and treatment was successfully carried out.

(e) Moveable Dwellings.

As in previous years an August survey was carried out on behalf of the Norfolk County Council, to ascertain the number of caravans and tents in the area at the seasonal peak period.

Number of Residential Caravans	11
Number of Holiday Caravans	31
Number of tents	3

There are two licensed sites for holiday or touring caravans; additional works have been carried out at both these sites.

Number of Visits	58.
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WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Rainfall.

The total rainfall in 1968 for the Loddon area was 25.40 inches compared with 21.47 inches for 1967. In recent years the two extremes are 16.57 inches in 1959 and 30.81 inches in 1960.

(a) Rainfall continued

The Norfolk average over the last 30 years is 26.00 inches.

The Loddon area figures for 1968 are :-

	<u>Monthly Rainfall.</u>	<u>Total Rainfall.</u>
January	1.80	1.80
February	1.72	3.52
March	0.75	4.27
April	1.05	5.32
May	1.92	7.24
June	2.08	9.32
July	2.66	11.98
August	2.58	14.56
September	6.02	20.58
October	1.72	22.30
November	1.99	24.29
December	1.11	25.40

During the month of September the heavy rainfall, which caused widespread flooding and damage, was a quarter of the average yearly total.

(b) Public Water Supplies.

The district continues to be supplied by mains water from :-

- (1) Norwich Water Works via the Water Tower at Yelverton (20,000 gallons capacity), the Water Tower at Loddon Ingloss (245,000 gallons capacity) and the Booster Main at Brooke. This supplies the whole area apart from the six southern parishes in the Waveney Valley.
- (2) East Anglian Water Company (Headworks at Outney Common, Bungay) via the steel Water Tower at Ditchingham (90,000 gallons capacity) and serves Ditchingham, Broome, Kirby Cane, Ellingham, Geldeston and Gillingham.

Investigations into a possible source of supply within the district are being carried out. This has been found necessary due to the increase in building development and general demand for water.

Dwellings supplied from the public Mains.

Figures for the number of dwellings supplied with water from the public mains in each parish, are shown in the following table.

	MAINS.	STANDPIPES.
ALDEBY.	130	-
ALPINGTON.	107	2
ASHBY ST. MARY.	46	-
BEDINGHAM.	55	1
BERGH APTON.	149	1
BROOKE.	342	3
BROOME.	148	-
BURGH ST. PETER.	61	3
CARLETON ST. PETER.	14	-
CHEDGRAVE.	330	-
CLAXTON.	39	-
DITCHINGHAM.	373	11
ELLINGHAM.	148	1
GELDESTON.	136	2
GILLINGHAM.	163	-
HADDISCOE.	142	2
HALES.	125	-
HECKINGHAM.	51	-
HEDENHAM.	62	-
HELLINGTON.	18	-
HOWE.	15	-
KIRBY CANE.	132	-
KIRSTEAD.	70	-
LANGLEY-with-HARDLEY.	120	-
LODDON.	482	2
MUNDHAM.	46	4
NORTON SUBCOURSE.	92	-
RAVENINGHAM.	54	-
SEETHING.	101	1
SISLAND.	5	-
STOCKTON.	25	-
THURLTON.	130	1
THURTON.	133	-
THWAITE ST. MARY.	20	-
TOFT MONKS.	101	-
TOPCROFT.	72	1
WHEATACRE.	31	-
WOODTON.	138	-
YELVERTON.	40	-

(b) Public Water Supplies (continued)

Water samples for bacteriological analysis were taken from lengths of new main on building sites and consumers' taps. Of the 51 samples taken 50 were highly satisfactory and one was not satisfactory, but after chlorination and flushing it proved to be satisfactory on re-sampling.

During the year there were 215 new water main connections.

(c) Private Water Supplies.

Twenty three samples were taken. Six from bore holes were satisfactory. Of the seventeen taken from wells, fourteen were satisfactory and three were unsatisfactory. In one case connection was made to the water main, the second was due to a faulty filter and was satisfactory after repair and the third was closed as there was already a mains supply in the house.

S E W E R A G E.

Existing Plants.

There are six main sewage disposal works in the area :-

1. Loddon and Chedgrave.
2. Brooke.
3. Ditchingham.
4. Ellingham and Kirby Cane.
5. Gillingham.
6. Norton Subcourse and Thurlton.

There are also small disposal works serving Council Estates and private housing where there is no main sewerage system. When new mains systems are constructed these plants will be incorporated.

Future Schemes.

- (1) The Geldeston village scheme, which necessitates enlargement of the Ellingham Works, was commenced during the year. Dewatering in the lower areas necessitated a revision of the original layout and the main pumping station has had to be re-sited. It is anticipated that the system will be in operation by 1970.
- (2) Revisions to the Loddon sewerage scheme are in the hands of the Consulting Engineers, but progress towards finalising the proposals is slow. This plant is urgently needed, not only on account of overloading of the old works, but for the general development of the surrounding area, where there is pressure for mains drainage.

Future Schemes continued

- (3) The remaining villages have been given consideration and priorities have been allocated in agreement with the County Council.

Effluent Samples.

During the year 28 samples were taken from the six sewage disposal works :-

Brooke.

2 Field Samples.	Good.
1 River Authority.	Poor.

Ditchingham.

1 Field Sample	Good.
2 River Authority.	V. Good.

Ellingham.

1 Field Sample	Good.
1 River Authority	Poor.
1 River Authority	Good.

Gillingham.

3 Field Samples.	Good.
1 Field Sample	Poor.
1 River Authority.	Good.
1 River Authority	Good but suspended solids high.

Norton.

1 Public Analyst	Crude sewage sample satisfactory.
3 Field Samples	Good.
1 River Authority	V. Good.
1 River Authority	Borderline.

Loddon.

3 Field Samples	Borderline.
1 Field Sample	Poor.
2 River Authority	Poor.
1 River Authority	Only suspended solids high.

Loddon Works gave poor results, as was to be expected, although this plant receives extra maintenance to produce the best possible effluent.

The other works on the whole appear to be satisfactory. The newer plants now seem to have established the necessary biological life for good working.

Septic Tank Emptying.

A total of 1,244 loads or 1,244,000 gallons was collected from dwellings, house plants and sewage works. This is an increase of just over 100,000 gallons compared with 1967.

	<u>Number of Loads.</u>
Private Tanks	689
Council House Plants	217
Miscellaneous	
(sewage works, farms & Schools)	338
	<u>1,244.</u>

Septic Tank Emptying continued

This work was carried out during a difficult period when the regular operator was on sick leave for several months. Work had to be re-arranged amongst the remaining staff where previous training allows some flexibility during holiday and sickness periods. A new permanent operator was later employed, as it became clear that the original man was no longer able to carry out strenuous work of this nature.

R E F U S E C O L L E C T I O N A N D D I S P O S A L.

Weekly collection of refuse is maintained throughout the district, with the addition of boatyard collections made during the six month season. Normally the two large vehicles, 50 cu.yd. and 35 cu.yd. capacities, are employed, but the standby lorry, 18 cu.yd., is used for boatyard collections.

A combined total of 696.5 loads was collected, which is the equivalent of 27,907 cu.yds. of compressed refuse. This is again an increase over the previous year. It is accounted for in two ways. Firstly, the extra number of dwellings constructed and, secondly, by the change in the nature of the refuse collected. Refuse bulk has increased again due to present packaging methods and the large quantity of tinned foods consumed. There are also fewer solid fuel fires which, while decreasing ash and clinker content, means that less domestic incineration of wrappings and cartons takes place.

This bulk increase is of national concern and changes are, therefore, being made in the type of vehicle used. Although this Council has compaction type vehicles, newer models are constantly being brought onto the market to enable an even greater degree of compaction.

The problem does not end there, as the provision of suitable means of disposal is becoming increasingly difficult. Controlled tipping has ceased in many areas and other means have had to be adopted, such as pulverisation, incineration and composting. Such plants are costly and the provision of large central disposal and treatment factories is increasingly being considered. Local investigations are being carried out in Norfolk at the present time. In rural areas such plants would also involve the setting up of transfer loading stations due to the extra long haul from the point of collection to disposal. While this district can cope with the tipping question for several years to come, in the future disposal will become a problem, as it is to several of the neighbouring districts at the present time.

Number of Visits 124.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Meat Inspection.

There is only one licensed Slaughterhouse in the district, where one hundred per cent inspection is carried out.

Number of Visits 59

<u>Details.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>
Number killed.	201	1	Nil	Nil
Number inspected.	201	1	Nil	Nil
All diseases, except tuberculosis				
(a) where whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) carcase of which some part or organ condemned..	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) percentage (of number inspected) affected with some disease, other than T.B.	3.5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only				
(a) whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) carcase of which some part or organ condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) percentage (of number inspected) affected with T.B.	0.5	Nil	Nil	Nil

The following condemned carcase parts and offals were voluntarily surrendered :-

<u>Animal.</u>	<u>Organ or Part.</u>	<u>Condition.</u>
Cattle	5 Livers	Abscess.
Cattle	2 Livers.	Fluke
Cattle	1 Mesentery	Tuberculosis.

In total 108 lbs. of offal was destroyed.

There is also one licensed knacker's yard in the area.

Visits are normally made to these premises for meat inspection and food hygiene reasons and, in addition, twice yearly visits are now made with the Divisional Veterinary Officer to ensure compliance with the Slaughterhouses Acts, Diseases of Animals Act, etc.

2. Poultry Inspection.

Weekly inspections were carried out at three poultry premises. The total inspected was 17,462 birds, i.e. 160 turkeys, 2,100 chickens, 5,412 hens and 9,790 broilers, of which ten were condemned through emaciation or immaturity, giving a total of 0.057% rejections, weight 23 lbs.

The number of visits was 150.

2. Poultry Inspection continued

During the year satisfactory standards were maintained at the three plants.

Following the Ministry's previous requests for information, and for local authorities to maintain a general oversight of poultry processing plants, details have recently been issued of The Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967, which comes into force on 1st January, 1970. The Act gives approval to methods of stunning and slaughter and instructs local authorities to keep a register of premises. Regulations are to be made under the Act to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with poultry slaughter. Periodic visits are also to be made with the Divisional Veterinary Officer.

3. Inspection of other Food and Premises.

The general standard of food hygiene is good in the area, but constant attention is necessary to see that the staff are fully aware of the importance and methods to be used in maintaining a proper degree of hygiene.

Rotation of packaged stock, both confectionery and meat products, is of great importance. Manufacturers and their representatives are increasingly helpful in their information to shopkeepers regarding this problem. Difficulties have again arisen on one or two occasions and these have been successfully dealt with by inspections and discussions with proprietors and staff. Clear date stamping would be preferable to coding packaged stock, but even then the products must be kept under the correct conditions.

Practically all food premises now have deep freeze cabinets and/or cold display counters. If breakdown occurs the co-operation of shopkeepers involves the immediate notification of this to the office, so that a visit and inspection can be made and the food surrendered.

Food voluntarily surrendered :-

Cooked Meat	.....	7 lbs.
Canned Meat	.....	13 lbs.
Canned fruit & Vegetables		16 lbs.
Frozen Food	.....	100 lbs.
Fresh Fish	.....	32 lbs.
		<u>168 lbs.</u>

3. Inspection of other Food and Premises continued

The number of premises is made up as follows :-

General Stores	.....	50.
Butchers	.....	5.
Fish & Chip Shops	.....	3.
Bakeries	.....	1.
Dairies	.....	4.
Catering establishments	.....	5.
Public Houses	.....	35.
		<u>103.</u>

Number of Visits to Premises 175.

R O D E N T C O N T R O L .

The Council's Rodent Operator carries out surveys, inspections and treatment of all types of property in the district including dwellings, trade premises, some farms, Council refuse tips and sewage disposal plants.

Treatment is for both rats and mice, and has been successful, but the battle is an age old one and will no doubt exist for many years to come. There is a greater public awareness of the problem both from householders and the farming community.

The Warfarin type of poison is safer to use from all aspects and is most effective. Zinc phosphide is sometimes used, but not as a general rule.

Apart from the Rodent Operator, there is a private contractor in the area who does a great deal of farm work for which he is well qualified, having previously worked with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Gradually the older type of farm building is being replaced by modern structures which are constructed of materials and in such a manner as to greatly reduce the damage to food stuffs by rodents.

	<u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Treated.</u>
Domestic property.	3,209.	534
Agricultural or other property.	161.	115.
	<u>3,370</u>	<u>649.</u>

Rodent Control continued

The Ministry of Agriculture Rodent Control Officer maintains a liason with this Council, paying periodic visits to the office and with the Rodent Operator to sites. He is very satisfied with the work carried out in the area and considers the control to be good, particularly on the refuse tip site.

160 visits were made, including inspections of the refuse tip.

I N F E C T I O U S D I S E A S E S .

Inspections and investigations were made into cases of infectious diseases. Twenty three visits were made to reported cases of Salmonella, Sonne Dysentery and Scarlet Fever..

F A C T O R I E S A C T .

There are 79 Factories with and 13 without mechanical power.

Improvements and installation of proper toilet accommodation have been carried out at one factory.

Number of Visits 37.

O F F I C E S , S H O P S A N D R A I L W A Y P R E M I S E S
A C T , 1963 .

Registration and General Inspections.

	<u>Registered during year.</u>	<u>Total registered at end of year.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Offices	1	6	1
Retail Shops.	2	34	34
Catering Establishments open to Public	-	3	3
Fuel Storage Depots.	-	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>38</u>

Several minor contraventions of the Act were noted and appropriate action taken. The main problem in this area (and in other areas) concerns the fencing of dangerous machinery. Guards are available for cutting machines, etc., and more education of operators is necessary to ensure that these are always used.

GENERAL.

The following is a summary of other inspections and visits carried out :-

Sewage Works, etc.....	204.
Drainage Tests and Inspections	405.
Building Regulations	1,216.
Discretionary Grants	212.
Standard Grants	325
Nuisance Visits	89.
Planning Visits	52.
Public Conveniences	15.
Water Supply	348.
Petroleum Regulations	26.
Waste Foods Order	4.
Street Lighting	6.
Miscellaneous Visits	223.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Council and Public Health Committee for their support and interest, also the Medical Officer of Health and other members of the staff for their help and co-operation which have proved invaluable.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

R.W.GARROOD.